
THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

13 January 2017

Welcome back, everyone! I truly hope you all had a very restful, festive and fun filled Christmas and New Year period!

As always, we have returned to an action packed first ten days starting with the senior girls taking their mock exams. However, after today they will be able to relax a bit and get back into ordinary life again, at least for a little while before the strain of intense revision kicks in once again! We have put in place a wealth of extra lessons or clinics and so I hope that we can provide the best support possible. Wonderful university offers are also now starting to trickle in so this is definitely the focus of chatter in the Sixth Form common room!

Elsewhere, the sporting fixtures have started in earnest, the Upper 4s are considering their GCSE options, the 60 clubs we offer each week are being met with much approval and rehearsals for the School Performance of 'Beauty and the Beast' gain pace! Our girls never cease to amaze me with their breadth of talent and zest for life!

The staff have also started the year in earnest: The Senior Leadership Team have recently had a rather intense planning day to get to grips with the brand new Independent School Inspection criteria whilst the Marketing & Admissions teams have been flat out fielding record numbers of entries for our Entrance Exams and Scholarships. We have certainly hit the ground running this term!



Lego League team secures place at National finals

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that The Maynard Wine Gums team of Miri Cooper Wedge, Bella Brent, Kitty Guinness, Anna Harries and Anya Hitt (all in the Upper 4) enjoyed a truly successful outing to the Animal Allies FIRST Lego League regional tournament at the HP labs in Bristol yesterday.

After a wobbly start, where Sir Killalot the robot almost lived up to his name, they cruised into the semi-finals on the robot game board! They were also assessed in three other areas - gracious professionalism and team work, their robot

design and programming and a project on monitoring wildlife. When all the points were added up, it was so exciting to be announced as the runners-up and, with the top two teams qualifying for the National Finals, we can now look forward to pitching our skills against the best in the UK!

Year 6 wow the Youth Speaks competition



Students in the Junior School have hit the ground running this term and I was delighted to hear that the two Year 6 teams we sent to the Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition on Wednesday performed so brilliantly against opponents from five other teams taking part.

Maisy Crook, Dawn Webberley and Megan Byrne spoke on "Should humans colonise Mars" whilst Sasha Hayes, Marianna Clarkson and Phoenix Wilson discussed "Should Food & Nutrition be a core curriculum subject". All of our girls were utterly convincing in their arguments and the main speaker in

each team was even required to speak for an entire four minutes - for girls of this young age, this really is quite a feat!

I was so pleased to hear that the "Food & Nutrition" team secured a top two place, qualifying them for the regional heats next month. Great credit to them and all the other Maynard girls who rose so valiantly to such a daunting challenge - they should be very proud of themselves!

Artistic flair in the Food & Nutrition room

Whilst on the Food & Nutrition subject, I just have to share with you these photos of the Lower 4s carefully constructing their choux pastry swans in the week - they really are true works of art! Personally, I am always wowed by the incredibly tempting smells emanating from the cookery room and I absolutely love the buzzing atmosphere to be found there. It is such a privilege to be able to offer such a popular subject, so loved by the girls and I really hope that you, as parents, enjoy the many delicacies that are sent home each week!



Work off any Christmas excesses for charity!

The Maynard School Virtual Marathon



Run 26.2 miles, get fit and raise sponsorship for CLIC and The Teenage Cancer Trust

Minimum Sponsorship target £26 per person

Complete the Virtual Marathon and get your own medal

See Miss Williamson/Mrs Thorne for your Virtual Marathon log book



parties who would like to join in should email katewilliamson@maynard.co.uk or suethorne@maynard.co.uk to register.

Good luck!

Continued fun in the Pre-Prep Department

The New Year has heralded all kinds of excitement for our Pre-Prep girls who have enjoyed a very active start to the term! Earlier in the week, the Years 1 and 2 students were learning about objects that are living, once lived or were never alive at all! As such, they enjoyed an investigative walk all around our school site to find out what examples we had in our 'Maynard habitats!' They flew around the field, searched the pond, visited the Garden of Reflection and even perused the playground, unearthing a huge array of objects to assist with their learning.

My thanks to Mrs Cook and Miss Bewley for leading such an inspired project – it is always wonderful to hear what fun the Pre-Prep girls are having with their learning!

Earlier this week, they were also treated to the first lesson of their Jiu Jitsu club, run by Dr Helen Catterick, a current parent and Old Maynardian who was also once a member of the British Jiu Jitsu team. This first session was a huge success and I know all the girls thoroughly enjoyed learning the basics of a new art – so my huge thanks to Dr Catterick for all her enthusiasm and expertise!



Convincing Netball victory over Millfield

As you all know, Millfield is widely regarded as one of the best sporting schools in the country but, once again, they have proved no match for our exceptional Under 14 Netball team. Having narrowly defeated them at home last term, it was our turn to play away which we achieved to devastating effect.

Without exception, every single member of the team played their socks off and consolidated their Devon Championship title with an outstanding 33 - 25 title. This is great news and bodes very well for the team as they prepare for the Regional Finals at Marlborough College on 28 January 2017!

My congratulations also to our girls in the First Team and Under 16 team who also played some hugely competitive matches against their Millfield oppositions. Unfortunately, they were both beaten but they put up some cracking performances and all played their hearts out. Most importantly, they were gracious in defeat which, in my mind, is what makes a good sports person! Well done to you all!

Performance of the Month nominees

I am looking forward to announcing the winner of December's Performance of the Month at Monday's assembly and I wish all of the nominees the very best of luck. Namely:

- Lauren Wood (Lower 6) for being selected as part of the Team Bath Netball U19 Short Squad.
- Ellie and Jess Ramsay (Upper 6 and Lower 6) for qualifying for the National Clubs Indoor Hockey Final as part of the Under 18 ISCA hockey squad.
- Amelia Moody (Lower 5) for winning the Exeter vs East Devon Intermediate Girls Cross Country race. She will now represent Exeter & District Schools at the Devon Cross Country Championships next Saturday 21 January 2017.
- Harriet Gregson and Megan Abrahams (Upper 3) for gaining selection to represent Devon in an inter county hockey tournament against Dorset and Somerset Prep Schools.



Archive Club: unveiling a fascinating Maynard past!

Our student archivists are unearthing all manner of historical treasures and continue to post their interesting finds in their online blog. To find out all about their most recent discovery, please visit <http://maynardarchives.blogspot.co.uk/2017/01/trangias-past-by-ellie-erin-and-georgina.html>

The time and effort that these girls put into each project is truly admirable and I am always impressed by the depths of their research! I hope you will enjoy reading about them, too!

The Maynard Forest School

And finally, I am delighted to announce our latest venture - the Maynard Forest School. During last term Emma Cook, the Head of the Pre-Prep, successfully completed her Level 3 Forest Leader Training course and is now fully equipped with the necessary expertise to run her own Forest School, situated here on The Maynard grounds.

Initially, we are rolling out a five week course open to three and four year olds with a sense of adventure and a love of the outdoors! The first of these sessions will be held on Monday 27 February from 9am - 11.30am and will be followed on a weekly basis every Monday morning until the end of term. More information about these course will be available soon but, in the meantime, please do spread the word!

Suffice to say, all of our Pre-Prep department will be joining in with Forest School activities on a regular basis to support their classroom learning from the start of the Summer Term. I am quite sure this will be a welcome addition to the curriculum and I look forward to joining them whenever I can!



Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress